

Appl. No. 09/997,021
Amdt. Under 37 CFR § 1.116
March 31, 2004

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 9, 2003, claims 28-42 and 76-80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2; claim 41 was objected to; claims 1-9, 28-31, 33, 39, 42, 62-64, 74, 76, and 81 were rejected under § 102 over U.S. Publication No. 2001/0052426 (Mercer); claims 32 and 65 were rejected under § 103 over Mercer in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0001753 (Cernocky); and claims 34-38, 40, 75, 77, and 78 were rejected under § 103 over Mercer in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,923,757 (Hocker).


Applicant acknowledges the indication in the Advisory Action that claims 41 and 66-73 have been allowed and that claims 79, 80, 82, and 83 would be allowable if formal objections were overcome. Claims 79, 82, and 83 have further been amended into independent form. The scope of each of claims 82 and 83 remains *unchanged*.

The antecedent basis issue has been addressed in claim 79 (now independent) by introducing the clause "the control module communicating with a tool" before the clause "the tool selected from the group" Also, to improve clarity of the claim 79, the "receiving identifiers of components for use in the tool" clause has been deleted to remove redundancy with another receiving clause in the claim.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, including extension of time fees, and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (SHL.0187US).

Respectfully submitted,

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